



Warm greetings to you from all the staff at SIL Nigeria. The coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing restrictions are creating extraordinary hardship for many in Nigeria and worldwide. As we endeavor to serve God and love others during these challenging times, let's continue to fix our eyes on the Lord and not on the circumstances surrounding us!

Welcome to our first quarterly newsletter of 2020. Our vision is to see the minority language communities of Nigeria experiencing holistic transformation through language development and the use of well-translated Scriptures.

As a result of SIL's ministry this year, more communities are using their languages to access development opportunities and to encounter God. We trust that you will be encouraged as you read about the impact of our work which your support makes possible. We also commend to you our Nigerian Missionary Staff Programme, the growth of which is empowering our mission.

On behalf of SIL Nigeria, I thank you for your partnership in this important ministry.



– Tom Crabtree, SIL Nigeria Director

## Discussing God's Word in Tugbiri Strengthens the Sunday School

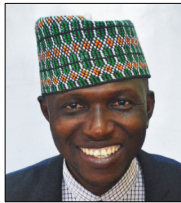
SIL Nigeria Translation Consultant Rachele Wenger has been helping the Agbiri people check their translation of the gospel of Matthew. She shares: "Doing translation has changed the way the translators on the Tugbiri team personally disseminate the message. One of them teaches a Sunday School class of eight-to-ten-year-old boys. He used to conduct his classes in a mixture of Hausa and English, despite the fact that many people's understanding of them is minimal. It used to be that when he would ask his students questions about a passage they had read, the boys would say they didn't really understand it.

But now that he has spent so much time at the translation desk thinking through God's message in Tugbiri, he is able to use Tugbiri to explain the message to them. He is also passing on to his students things he learns in our checking sessions. For example, while Agbiri people generally think of "Christ" as Jesus' last name, he has taught his Sunday School class the meaning: God's chosen king. So now whenever the boys hear Yesu Kiristi, they are confronted with His title. Jesus is King! That is the Gospel."

– Rachele Wenger, Translation Consultant



## Meet some of our Nigerian Missionary Staff:



**Aku Agbam:** Aku serves as the Nigerian Missionary Staff Programme Coordinator, overseeing and enabling the programme so that Nigerian missionaries can serve effectively at SIL Nigeria for the good of Nigerian language communities.

- Pray for God's intervention for those infected and suffering with the Coronavirus and that there would soon be a cure.



**Rita Hassan:** Rita serves on the EthnoArts team, helping people redeem their culture for God's glory. She works with language communities in Nigeria to help them worship God in their own culturally appropriate ways.

- Pray for peace in my heart and for me to be able to recognise God's voice as He speaks to me.



**Princeton Waters:** Princeton serves as Team Leader of SIL Nigeria's Scripture Engagement (SE) team, helping language communities to access, understand, and interact meaningfully with the translated Scriptures.

- Ask the Lord to make fertile ground and prepare hearts to receive the gospel in the language communities that we work with. I and my family live on a tight missionary budget- please pray for God's provision over our family and ministry.



**Fittokka Gobak:** Though at first resistant to the idea of becoming a missionary, Fittokka became convinced that God was calling him into his vineyard. He affirms, "I had peace when I finally joined SIL Nigeria." He is now committed to the work of Bible Translation, serving as a Language Survey Specialist.

- Please pray for my family as we adjust to being a family of four, and for our partners in the work, because many of them are facing financial difficulties.



Nigeria

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